

It is not, however, so much cultivated in this as in many other countries, particularly in Germany and Holland, where there are some of the largest in the world; and in Holland, where they not only shelter the highways, but are planted in many towns in even lines before the houses, throughout the streets, air with the fragrance of their blossoms, and screening the passengers from the sun, with the luxuriant shade. It is peculiarly adapted for avenues, from the straightness of its stem, and the luxuriant spread of its branches, which are likewise so tough as to withstand the fury of gales that would dismember most of other trees. The red-twigged Lime is preferable for this purpose in point of beauty, on account of the pleasing contrast which the red twigs afford in the absence of its leaves.

The Lime Tree can accommodate itself to almost any kind of ground; but in a rich loamy soil it grows almost incredible swiftness, and spreads to an amazing size. Evelyn thus describes some of the giant species: "But here does properly intervene the Linden of Scholouse in Swisse, under which is a bower composed of its branches, capable of containing three hundred persons sitting at ease: it has a fountain with many tables, formed only of the boughs, to which they ascend by steps, all kept so accurately, and so thick, that the sun never looks into it. But this is nothing to that prodigious Tilia of Neustadt, in the Wirtemberg, so famous for its monstrosity, that even the city itself receives a denomination from it, being by the Germans *Neustadt under grossen Linden*, or Neustadt by the great Lime Tree. The circumference of its trunk is twenty-seven feet four fingers; the ambitus, or extent of the boughs, four hundred and three feet in diameter, from south to north one hundred and forty-five, from east to west one hundred and nineteen feet; and about with divers columns and monuments of stone, (eighty-two in number at present, and formerly more, which several Princes and Noble Persons have adorned, and celebrated with inscriptions and devices; and which, as so many pillars, serve likewise to support the umbrageous and venerable canopy, and that even the tree had been much ampler, the ruins and distances of the columns declare, which soldiers have greatly impaired."—Discourse on Forest Trees, p. 493. edit. 1776.

Leaving, however, these "monstrosities," as Evelyn styles them, we may turn with perhaps more interest to the beautiful specimen of the Lime Tree afforded us in Moor-Park, Hertfordshire, the family seat of Robert Williams, Esq.; a place venerable for its antiquity, and familiar to the lovers of gardening by Sir John Temple's eulogium on it, as affording in his time the most perfect combination of garden elegance and utility in England. This tree, standing upon a little eminence, finely terminates a row of stately Limes which line the side of the Park for more than three quarters of a mile; all of which are more lofty and some of larger than this; but none equalling it in luxuriance of shade, and redundancy of branches, nineteen of which, rivalling the parent stem, have, at about nine feet from the ground, struck out in horizontal lines to the distance of from sixty-seven to seventy-one feet, and from six to eight feet in circumference, bearing again in three or four upright limbs, like so many young trees, and reminding the beholder of prosperous colonies supported by, and adding to the importance of, their mother country. Its age is not exactly known; but at this present period in the most vigorous state of luxurious growth, and has every promise of attaining a still larger size. Its circumference on the ground is twenty-three feet three inches; at three feet above, it is twenty feet six inches; its branches extend one hundred and twenty-two feet in diameter, and cover three hundred and sixty feet in circumference. It is nearly a hundred feet in height, and contains, by actual measurement, eight hundred and seventy-five feet of saleable timber.

PLATE XVI.—THE ELMS AT MONGEWELL.

THESE noble trees are close to the residence of the Bishop of Durham, whose property they are, and well in Oxfordshire, celebrated by Leland for its "faire woodes," and forcibly recall to the mind of the reader Cowper's eulogium on shades so natural and delightful.

"Our fathers knew the value of a screen
From sultry suns, and in their shaded walks
And long protracted bowers enjoyed, at noon,
The gloom and coolness of declining day."

The principal tree among them is seventy-nine feet in height, fourteen in circumference at three feet above the ground.